

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 35

2 43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING STATE AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SPECIAL  
12 JURISDICTIONS TO USE THEIR AUTHORITIES TO COOPERATIVELY PRESERVE  
13 THE STATE' S RIVER ECOSYSTEMS.

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15 WHEREAS, the first New Mexicans found magnificent rivers  
16 teeming with life; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico's rivers enabled us to achieve the  
18 natural and economic wealth we now enjoy; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico's rivers remain a vital resource for  
20 drinking water, food production, recreation for citizens and  
21 visitors, a high quality of life and the spiritual renewal of  
22 our citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, rivers have undergone profound changes as a result  
24 of our development and are now threatened by desiccation, toxic  
25 pollution, siltation and salinity;

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1           WHEREAS, new diversions and changes of use may further  
2 deplete the flow of our rivers and with it threaten the many  
3 environmental values of rivers; and

4           WHEREAS, healthy and diverse wildlife resources are  
5 compatible with a vibrant and sustainable economy;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all state agencies, counties,  
8 municipalities and special jurisdictions cooperate to devise  
9 strategies to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of  
10 water in our streams; and

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment  
12 be requested to identify sources of pollution and implement  
13 viable methods to abate water pollution; and

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and fish  
15 be requested to serve the quality of ecosystems that nongame  
16 species as well as game species depend upon; and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state engineer be requested  
18 to use environmental criteria in issuing permits for diversion  
19 of water; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that counties, municipalities and  
21 special jurisdictions be requested to dedicate a portion of  
22 their water transfers to the preservation of stream flows to  
23 maintain and restore aquatic and riparian ecosystems and protect  
24 New Mexico's natural heritage; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of environment, the  
2 director of the department of game and fish and the state  
3 engineer.

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